

attacks, Arab, Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian Americans faced a wave of hate incidents and blame similar to what AAPI individuals are experiencing today. As George Santayana said, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

The former president espoused and amplified virulent intolerance using slurs such as the "China virus" and "kung flu" to characterize the COVID-19 virus, putting the lives of 23,000,000 AAPIs at risk, including more than 2,000,000 AAPI frontline workers. Every day, these heroic individuals put their personal health and safety on the line to serve other Americans as health care professionals, first responders, transit operators, and in supermarkets and other essential service industries. However, AAPI frontline workers are not immune from discrimination and hate, which impacts both their personal and professional lives. Some AAPI nurses and doctors have reported workplace harassment from other staff and patients who refuse their care, while others have experienced terrifying encounters, including being violently shoved, spit on, and called racial slurs during their evening commute.

The rise in attacks against older AAPI individuals are both alarming and unconscionable. In January 2021, three AAPI elders were violently attacked in separate incidents in California. Tragically, one of these individuals, Vicha Ratanapakdee, died from injuries he sustained during an unprovoked assault, which his family believes was racially motivated. This discrimination which includes acts of physical violence is an additional threat elders now face as a result of the pandemic. Older adults are at higher risk of contracting severe COVID-19 and AAPI elders, particularly those who are recent immigrants or have limited English proficiency, may face additional challenges in obtaining health care, enduring economic insecurity, and suffering from language isolation.

Recently, on March 16, 2021, eight people, including six women of Asian descent, were shot to death at three Atlanta-area businesses. During a year of increasing racism and attacks targeting AAPIs, this latest senseless act of violence adds to the pain and fear felt by many in the AAPI community. Our leaders must step up and confront racial hatred and violence.

At Merrick Garland's hearing to be Attorney General of the United States, I highlighted the surge in discrimination and hate crimes against the AAPI community. In contrast to the Department of Justice under the Trump administration, then-Judge Garland recognized the harm and fear that these incidents have caused and pledged that under his leadership, the Civil Rights Division would vigorously review and prosecute these cases. This is the kind of leadership we need in order to combat these crimes. I will continue to raise the issue of anti-Asian hate with

other nominees and officials to call attention to the alarming rise of hate crimes against AAPIs and the critical need for action.

The legislation that I have introduced, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, will help to address the ongoing surge in violence against AAPI communities. It will focus federal leadership to investigate and report hateful acts of violence, and provide resources for our communities to come together and take a stand against intolerance and hate. The actions of our leaders matter, and I call on my colleagues in the United States Senate to condemn anti-Asian racism, and swiftly pass the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act during the 117th Congress.

I yield the floor.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 134—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 134

Whereas, on March 5, 1946, Sir Winston Churchill delivered the Iron Curtain speech in Fulton, Missouri, solidifying the "Special Relationship" between the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas, since the end of World War II, the United States and the United Kingdom have been beacons of freedom to the world, standing together in the fight against tyranny;

Whereas the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom has driven economic prosperity and security cooperation in both nations for more than 70 years;

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom share the world's largest bilateral trade and investment relationship;

Whereas, while the United States and the United Kingdom already share a robust economic partnership, there remain clear opportunities for both countries to further strengthen economic ties;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and United Kingdom Department for International Trade have engaged in substantive negotiations towards the conclusion of a comprehensive free trade agreement since May 2020; and

Whereas the constitutional power of making treaties with foreign nations includes both the legislative and executive branches: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should strengthen their close and mutually beneficial trading and economic partnership with the United Kingdom;

(2) the President, with the support of Congress, should work to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive future trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom; and

(3) during the course of finalizing a trade agreement, the President, in consultation

with Congress, should strive to reach a mutually advantageous resolution of commercial disagreements between the United States and the United Kingdom.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 135—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINAS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KELLY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 135

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women's History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas there are nearly 29,000,000 Latinas living in the United States;

Whereas 1 in 6 women in the United States is a Latina;

Whereas Latinas have helped shape the history of the United States since its inception;

Whereas Latinas contribute to the society of the United States through working in many industries, including business, education, science and technology, medicine, engineering, mathematics, literature and the arts, the military, agriculture, hospitality, and public service;

Whereas Latinas serve as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, filling vital positions that keep the economy going and the people of the United States safe;

Whereas Latinas come from diverse cultures across North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, and Afro-Latinas face disparities in recognition;

Whereas Latinas are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of the Federal Government, including the Supreme Court of the United States, Cabinet-level positions, the United States Senate, and the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas Latinas make up an estimated 19 percent of women serving in the Armed Forces, and the first Latina to become a general in the Marine Corps reached that rank in 2006;

Whereas Latinas are breaking the glass ceiling in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with the first Latina to travel into space doing so during a 9-day Space Shuttle Discovery mission in 1993;

Whereas Latinas own more than 2,000,000 businesses, and 18 percent of all women-owned companies in the United States are owned by a Latina;

Whereas Latina activists have led the fight for civil rights, including labor rights, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, and racial equality;

Whereas Latinas create award-winning art and are recipients of Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards;

Whereas Latina singers and songwriters, like Selena, also known as the Queen of